(d) whether BHEL has entered into joint ventures with some multi-nationals;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the advantages to be derived from such joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) BHEL has initiated steps to form two Joint Venture Companies—one with General Electric Company (GE), U.S.A. and the other with Siemens, A.C., Germany.

(e) The joint venture of BHEL with GE will be for repair and servicing of G.E. designed gas turbines in India and certain other countries. The joint venture with Siemens will be for carrying out Performance Improve of old fossil fuel power plants.

(f) The advantages of the proposed joint ventures include increased power availability from existing gas turbines and power plants, enhanced business for BHEL, and employing state-of-the-art servicing technologies resulting in greater customer satisfaction.

Curtailment in Passenger facilities

*266. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passenger amenities in the railways have deteriorated since the past few months;

(b) whether any surprise checks have been conducted to find out the factors responsible for bottlenecks in passenger amenities in the railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete measures Government propose to take to streamline passenger amenities in the railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) There has been no deterioration.

(b) and (c) Checks are conducted from time to time by the senior officers of various departments and remedial action is taken to correct the deficiences noticed.

(d) Zonal Railways have been directed to formulate perspective plans for provision of passenger amenities so that these could be provided/augmented in a phased manner. Provision of Computerised Passenger Reservation facilities, Self printing ticket machines, Public address system and electronic display boards at more stations, posting of Instant Action Groups on running trains, provision of travelling safaiwallahs and High pressure jet cleaning machines and introduction of AC 3-tier coaches are some of the measures being taken in this regard. It is the constant endeavour of the Railways to provide adequate amenities to the passengers. In pursuance this, monitoring mechanism has been strengthened.

Seventh International Anti-corruption Conference

*267. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions led a delegation to Beijing in October, 1995 for the Seventh International Anti-Corruption Conference;

(b) if so, what was its agenda and what decisions were arrived at; and

(c) whether Government are implementing those decisions and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.